

GULLIVER IN LILLIPUT

RETOLD BY G. P. SEKHAR

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GULLIVER IN LILLIPUT

PROM JONATHAN SWIFT'S
"GULLIVER'S TRAVELS"

RETOLD BY
G. P. SEKHAR

RADH-IND PUBLICATIONS
TRIVANDRUM
1962

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EDITOR'S NOTE

This book is intended for use as a Supplementary Reader in Standard VIII in Secondary Schools. It gives in a simple style the story of "Gulliver in Lilliput" from Jonathan Swift's *Gulliver's Travels*, one of the most fascinating tales of travels in wonderland.

In preparing this book a vocabulary of about one thousand words, suitable to the standard, has been used. The structure of sentences in this book is as simple as possible. Special attention has been given to the proper grading of the chapters. It is hoped that the students will find the book an easy introduction to simple narrative style which they are expected to cultivate at this stage of their study of the English language.

G. P. S.

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CHAPTER I

MY ARRIVAL IN LILLIPUT

I was born in Nottinghamshire, where my father had a small estate. I was the third of five sons. When I was fourteen years old, my father sent me to Cambridge. There I remained three years, working hard at my studies. From Cambridge I was sent to London, and there, for the next four years, I studied medicine under Mr. Bates, a famous surgeon.

When I left Mr. Bates, my father sent me to Leyden, in Holland, for further studies. Soon after my return from Leyden, I became surgeon on board the *Swallow*. In this vessel I made a voyage or two to the Levant and other places.

When I came back, I got married and made up my mind to settle down in London as a doctor. I made a good start. My old master, Mr. Bates, did all that he could to help me. But two years later he died, and my thoughts turned to the sea again.

I became surgeon in two ships one after the other. In these I made several voyages to the East and West Indies. At last a good offer came to me from Captain William Prichard, master of the *Antelope*. He was making a voyage to the South Seas. I joined him as surgeon of the ship.

We set sail from Bristol on 4th May, 1699. At first ~~every~~thing went well. For many weeks our voyage was safe and pleasant. But towards the end of the year, a great storm arose, and we were driven quite out of our course. For several days the storm continued. On the fifth of November the sailors saw a rock ahead, and the next moment our ship was driven straight upon it and wrecked.

Six of us lowered a boat into the sea and managed to get clear of the ship and the rock. We rowed for about three miles. By that time we were too tired to work any longer. We, therefore, trusted ourselves to the mercy of the waves. In about half an hour our boat was upset by a sudden gust of wind from the north.

What became of my companions I cannot tell. I believe they were all lost. For my part, I swam as well as I could. I often let my legs drop, but could feel no bottom. I swam for about half an hour more. At last I was getting too tired to swim any further, but just then I found myself within my depth.

In the meantime the storm had abated. I still had to wade wearily through the shallow water for over a mile. At last I got to the shore.

By that time darkness was setting in, and there was no sign of houses or of people. As I was extremely tired, I lay down on the soft grass and fell fast asleep.

QUESTIONS

1. Who was Gulliver ? What do you know of his boyhood and education ?
2. What do you know of his early voyages ?
3. Who made him surgeon on board the *Antelope* ?
4. How was he shipwrecked ?
5. How did he reach land after his shipwreck ?
6. Where did he sleep that night ?

CHAPTER II

A STRANGE EXPERIENCE

I slept for about nine hours, and when I awoke it was daylight. I tried to rise, but to my surprise I found myself unable to move. My arms and legs were strongly fastened to the ground on each side. My long hair too was tied down in the same manner. Across my body I felt several strings. They also held me fast to the ground.

As I lay on my back, I could only look upwards. So I saw nothing but the sky. All at once I heard a strange noise near me, but I did not know what it was about.

By that time the sun began to grow hot. In a little while I felt something alive moving along my right leg. It crept gently over my chest, almost to my chin. I bent my head down as much as I could. To my great surprise I saw that it was a little man, not more than six inches high! He had a bow and arrow in his hand. Behind him came forty other men of the same kind. I was so

astonished that I roared aloud. Hearing this, they all ran back in great fear. In their hurry several of them jumped down from my chest and hurt themselves.



I struggled hard to get loose.

I struggled hard to get loose. I soon broke the strings that tied my right arm. As soon as the little men saw this, they took to their heels. In a few moments they sent a shower of arrows at me from a distance. I felt them prick into my left hand like needles. This was followed by another shower, and some of the arrows fell on my face. I groaned with pain and again tried to break loose. Immediately some of the little men tried to stab

me with their spears. Luckily I had on me a leather jacket, and this protected me. I now thought it best to lie still and wait till night.

When the little men saw that I was quiet, they shot no more arrows. By the noise that I could hear, I knew that their number had increased. In a little while I heard a sound of hammering a few yards from me on the right. I turned my head to that side, and saw several carpenters at work. They were setting up a small platform. It was about a foot and a half high.

When it was finished, four men climbed on it. One of them seemed to be a man of high rank. I learnt later that he was an officer sent by the Emperor of that country. He stood on the platform and made a long speech, but I understood not a word of it. He then gave an order, and about fifty men came and cut the ropes and strings that tied the left side of my head. I could now turn to the right and see the speaker. He sometimes seemed to threaten and sometimes to promise kindness. In reply I showed by signs that I would remain quiet.

By that time I was almost faint with hunger. So I put my fingers to my mouth many times as a sign that I wanted food.

The officer seemed to have understood me very well. He ordered his men to place several ladders against my sides. Before long more than a hundred little men climbed up, carrying baskets full of meat and bread.

I observed there were shoulders and legs of several animals. I ate them by two or three at a mouthful. The loaves I took three at a time. They kept supplying me as fast as they could. While I was eating, they showed marks of surprise at the quantity of food that I ate.

I then made a sign that I wanted drink. They found by my eating that a small quantity would not be enough for me. So they drew up one of the largest barrels of wine. They rolled it towards my hand, and beat out its top. I drank it off easily as it did not hold more than half a pint. It tasted like a wine of Burgundy, but was more delicious. They brought me a second barrel, and this too I drank in the same manner. I

showed signs for more, but they had no more to give me.

Some time later there appeared before me another officer of the state sent by the Emperor. With a dozen attendants he climbed on my leg, and walked up to my face. He was holding a paper in his hand. This was an order from the Emperor.

The officer spoke for about ten minutes, often pointing to the capital city. It was about half a mile away. He had come with the Emperor's orders to take me to the city as a prisoner.

I showed signs that I might be set free. The officer seemed to have understood me well enough. He shook his head, and showed with his hands that I was to be taken to the capital as a prisoner. However, he made me understand that I should have enough meat and drink. He also showed by signs that no one would hurt me.

The officer then ordered some of the little men to loosen the strings on my left side. This made me feel more comfortable. They

also drew out all the arrows that still stuck to my face and hands. They rubbed the wounds with some sweet-smelling ointment. This took away my pain.

I now felt quite comfortable and soon fell fast asleep. I learnt later that the Emperor's physicians had put a strong sleeping powder in the wine that had been given to me.

QUESTIONS

1. Why could not Gulliver get up when he awoke ?
2. What was the strange creature that moved on his leg and chest ? How many more followed that creature ?
3. What did Gulliver do on seeing the little men ? How did some of them hurt themselves ?
4. What did the little men do when Gulliver tried to break the strings ? When did they stop doing so ?
5. What did the little men set up near Gulliver ? Who climbed on it when it was finished ? What did the Emperor's officer order the little men to do ?
6. How did Gulliver get food and drink ? What did the little men give him ?
7. With what orders did the Emperor send another officer ? What did he do when he appeared before Gulliver ?
8. What did Gulliver want him to do ? What signs did the officer show in reply ?
9. What made Gulliver fall fast asleep ?

CHAPTER III

MY JOURNEY TO THE CAPITAL.

To take me to the capital the Emperor ordered a great carriage to be made. Already there were large carts in the city for carrying timber from the forests. There were also large carts for taking ships built in the forests down to the sea. Five hundred carpenters were now set to work to put many of these carts together and make one great carriage for me.

The carriage, when completed, consisted of a long frame of wood, mounted on twenty-two wooden wheels. The frame was seven feet long and four feet wide. It was brought close to me as I lay asleep.

Now the chief difficulty was to lift me and place me on this carriage. Eighty poles were erected for this purpose. Each of them was a foot high, and on the top of each a pulley was attached. Strong ropes were fastened to the bandages round my neck, hands, body and legs. Nine hundred of the

strongest men were employed to draw up those ropes through the pulleys. Thus, in less than three hours, I was lifted on to the carriage, and tied fast. Then fifteen hundred of the Emperor's largest horses, each about four and a half inches high, were used to draw the carriage to the city.

All this happened while I lay in a deep sleep from the effect of the powder put into my drink. I awoke about four hours after we began our journey by a strange accident. When the carriage stopped on the way to give some rest to the horses, two or three officers of the guard climbed on to the carriage. To have a close look at my face they came as far as my chin. Just then one of them put the sharp end of his sword into my left nostril. This tickled my nose like a straw, and I awoke and began to sneeze violently. The little men stole off unnoticed, and it was only three weeks later that I knew the cause of my waking so suddenly.

We made a long march the remaining part of the day. When night came, I rested with five hundred guards on each side of

me. They had orders to shoot me if I should try to move.

The next morning at sunrise we continued our journey, and by noon we arrived within two hundred yards of the city gate.

QUESTIONS

1. How was a great carriage made to take Gulliver to the city ?
2. How was Gulliver lifted and placed on the carriage ? How many horses were used to draw it ?
3. What was Gulliver doing while he was being placed on the carriage ? What happened on the way ?
4. Where did Gulliver rest at night ?
5. Where was Gulliver taken ?

CHAPTER IV

MY ARRIVAL AT THE CAPITAL

The Emperor came out to meet me with all his court. He did not climb on my body as his officers were of opinion that it was too risky for him to do so. The Emperor and his high officers took their seats in a tower, twenty feet away from the city gate.

More than a hundred thousand people had gathered to see me. Several of them managed to get on my body with the help of ladders. But the Emperor at once issued orders that no one should climb on me.

At the place where the carriage stopped, there was an old building. This was once used as a temple. The door of this building was four feet high and two feet wide. It faced the north and was big enough for me to creep through. On each side of it there was a window about six inches from the ground.

Shortly after my arrival the Emperor's blacksmiths brought ninety-one chains. Each

of them was as large as a lady's watch chain. These chains were first firmly fixed to the gate of the temple and then fastened to my left leg with thirty-six padlocks.

When the blacksmiths had finished their job, they cut all the strings and ropes that bound me. Now I was able to stand on my feet. I could also move about a little as the chains that held me were two yards long. They allowed me not only to move about, but also to creep into the temple and lie full length on the floor.

When at last I found myself on my feet, I looked about me. I felt that I had never seen a more charming sight. The country was like a fine garden. The enclosed fields were about forty feet square. They looked like so many beds of flowers. There were also tiny woods here and there. The tallest trees in the woods seemed to be about seven feet high.

As I stood there, I saw the Emperor coming down from the tower. He advanced towards me on horseback. Though his horse

was a well-trained one, it roared up on its legs on seeing me.



The Emperor advanced towards me on horseback.

The Emperor was an excellent horseman. So he was able to keep his seat without being thrown off. Meanwhile his attendants ran to his rescue and held the horse by the bridle.

The Emperor got down from his horse and walked towards me. He had a graceful and majestic appearance. He was taller than anyone of his court. His dress was very plain and simple. He wore a golden

helmet set with gems. His golden belt was set with diamonds. He held his sword drawn in his hand to defend himself if I should break loose. It was three inches long. His voice was shrill, but clear.

The Empress and her children were gaily dressed. They sat in chairs at some distance.

In the meantime food was brought to me in carts by the Emperor's orders. The Emperor and his attendants stood around me and watched me eating. The carts were pushed forward to me. I took them one by one. Twenty of them were filled with meat and ten with casks of wine. I took each cartful of meat in two or three mouthfuls, and I drank each cask of wine at a gulp.

After I had taken my food the Emperor with his court went back to the palace. He left with me a strong guard. They kept back the crowd that was pressing forward to see me.

Some of the little men even shot arrows at me. One of the arrows very narrowly missed my left eye. The chief officer of the

guard ordered six of the men to be caught. They were pushed forward into my reach, with their hands bound.

I took them in my right hand and put five of them into my coat-pocket. The sixth I held in my hand. I made a face as if I meant to eat him alive. The poor fellow began to cry out in great fear. When I took out my pocket knife, even the soldiers on guard felt very uncomfortable. But soon I put them out of fear. With my knife I cut the string with which he was bound. I then put him gently on the ground, and the little fellow ran away. Then I took the other five from my pocket, one by one, and set them free in the same way. This show of mercy on my part pleased everyone.

When night came, I got into my house with some difficulty and lay on the floor. I continued to do so for about a fortnight. In the meantime the Emperor had given orders to have a bed prepared for me. Six hundred beds of common size were brought in carriages and were sewn together for my

use. In the same way they supplied me with blankets and bed-sheets.

QUESTIONS

1. What impression of the country did Gulliver get when he looked around ?
2. What did the Emperor do after the chains were fastened to Gulliver's leg ?
3. What impression did Gulliver get of the Emperor's appearance ?
4. How was Gulliver given food and drink by the Emperor's orders ?
5. What did some of the little men do to Gulliver after the Emperor had left the place ?
6. What did the chief officer of the guard do with six of them ?
7. What did Gulliver do with them ?
8. How did Gulliver sleep that night ?
9. How was Gulliver supplied with a bed, blankets and bed-sheets ?

CHAPTER V

THE EMPEROR'S KINDNESS

When the Emperor returned to the palace, he held a meeting of his Council and considered what should be done with me. Most of his high officers were afraid of me. Some of them expressed their fear that I might break loose and do harm. Some others thought that it would be too expensive to keep me in the country for long. They thought that there would not be enough food for the people if I were allowed to remain in the country for some days. Some of them suggested that I might be starved to death, or that I might be shot in the face and hands with poisoned arrows. But several others were not in favour of putting me to death. They feared that the foul smell of my dead body would bring a plague in the country.

While this discussion was going on, two officers came to the court. They gave an account of how kindly I had dealt with the six men who had shot arrows at me. This made

a deep impression in my favour on the Emperor and his officers.

"We must do no harm to this giant," said the Emperor. "If he is so good-natured, he will do us no harm. Some day, perhaps, he may be of great service to us."

A royal order was immediately issued, calling upon the villagers to supply me with six oxen, forty sheep, and a large quantity of bread and wine every morning. The Emperor also ordered that six hundred persons should wait upon me as my servants.

Before long, by the Emperor's orders, three hundred tailors were engaged to make a suit of clothes for me. The Emperor had also ordered that six of his best scholars should be employed to teach me the language of the land.

In about three weeks I made good progress in my study of the language. The Emperor used to visit me frequently during the period. He was even pleased to assist my masters in teaching me, and in a short time I was able to talk to him in my own way.

The first words that I learnt were to express my wish that the Emperor might be pleased to take off my chains and set me free. Every time the Emperor visited me I repeated these words on my knees. His answer was that he could not set me free without taking the advice of his Council. He advised me first to gain the good opinion of himself and his people by patient and pleasing behaviour. He, however, promised that I would be treated with all kindness even though I was a prisoner.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the Emperor do after returning to the palace ?
2. What did the officers say at the meeting of the Council ?
3. What act of Gulliver gained for him the favour of the Emperor and most of his officers ?
4. What arrangements were made for the comfortable stay of Gulliver by the orders of the Emperor ?
5. What was the one request that Gulliver repeatedly made to the Emperor ? What did the Emperor usually say in reply ?

CHAPTER VI

I AM SEARCHED BY TWO OFFICERS

The Emperor used to visit me now and then. One day he told me that he had ordered two of his officers to search me. This had to be done by the law of the country, and so he asked me not to take it ill. At the same time he made a promise that anything taken from me would be returned at the time of my leaving the country.

Accordingly two officers were sent to search me. I lifted them up and put them first into one of my coat-pockets and then into every other pocket except my two fobs and a secret pocket. This pocket contained my spectacles and a spy-glass which I wanted to keep with me. In one of my fobs there was a silver watch, and in the other a purse with some gold coins.

The officers made a thorough search of me and prepared a list of the things that they saw. This was what they wrote:

"To His Majesty the Emperor of Lilliput.

"In the right coat pocket of the great Man-mountain we found a very large piece of cloth. This was big enough to cover the floor of the largest room in Your Majesty's palace.

"In the left coat pocket we saw a huge silver box. It had a cover of the same metal. As we could not lift it, we asked the Man-mountain to open it. One of us stepped inside. He found himself up to his knees in a sort of dust. Some of this dust flew up to our faces and made us sneeze several times.

"In the right waistcoat pocket we found a bundle of white sheets. They were folded one over another and tied with a strong string. They were marked with black figures. These we consider to be writings. Every letter was as large as the palm of our hands.

"In his left pocket there was a sort of machine that looked like a long beam. On this twenty poles were fixed in a row. With this, we believe, the Man-mountain combs his hair.

"In the large pocket on the right side, we saw a hollow pillar of iron. It was about the length of a man. It was fastened to a strong piece of timber. Upon one side of this pillar were fixed huge pieces of iron. In the left pocket too we found a pillar of the same kind.

"In the smaller pocket on the left we found two black pillars. Each of these had a plate of steel inside. The Man-mountain told us that one of these was called a pocket knife and the other a razor. He said he cut his meat with one and shaved his beard with the other.

"Then there were two smaller tight pockets. These he called 'fobs'. Out of the right fob hung a great silver chain. At the end of this chain was a wonderful engine. At our request the Man-mountain drew it out. It was a sort of flattened globe. One side of it was covered with silver, and the other side with some substance through which we could see. Under this we found certain strange figures drawn in a circle.

"The Man-mountain put this engine to our ears, and we heard a noise like that of a great water-mill. Such a strange engine we have never seen before. We suppose it to be some unknown animal or, more likely, the God that the Man-mountain worships. He said that he seldom did anything without consulting it.

"From the left fob we took out a great net as big as a fisherman's. It opened and shut like a purse. We found in it several large pieces of yellow metal. If they are real gold, they must be of great value.

"Further we saw a kind of belt round his waist. It was made of the hide of some animal. From this a sword of the length of five men hung on the left side. On the right there was a bag. It was divided into two cells. In one of the cells there were several balls of some metal. They were as big as our heads. The other cell contained a heap of certain black grains.

"This is an exact list of the things that we found in the pockets and about the person of the Man-mountain.

"We may also add that the Man-mountain treated us with great civility and respect.

"Sealed and signed on the fourth day of the eighty-ninth moon of Your Majesty's happy reign.

"Clefrin Frelock
"Marsi Frelock "

When the list was read out to the Emperor, he asked me very gently to give up these things.

He first called for my sword, and I took it out, scabbard and all. In the meantime he ordered three thousand of his best soldiers to surround me. They were asked to keep their bows and arrows ready to shoot. He then asked me to draw my sword. I drew it and waved it in the sunlight. Immediately all the soldiers gave a shout of surprise and fear. The Emperor was less frightened than I had expected. He ordered me to put it back in the scabbard and place it gently on the ground.

The next thing he called for was one of my pocket pistols. I drew it out and explained to the Emperor its use. At his request

I charged it with powder and let it off in the air.



My watch was brought to the presence of the Emperor.

The people were much more astonished at this than at the sight of the sword. Hundreds of them fell down as if they were struck dead. Even the Emperor gave a start, and it took some time for him to get over the shock.

I gave up both my pistols along with my bag of bullets and powder.

The next thing I gave up was my watch. The Emperor was most eager to see it. It was taken to his presence by two of his strongest men. They bore it on a pole upon their shoulders. The Emperor looked at the figures on it and listened to the noise it made with great interest.

Finally, I gave up my silver and copper money, my purse with nine gold coins, my pocket knife, my razor, my comb, my silver snuff box, my handkerchief and my journal book.

Later all my goods were returned to me except my sword, my pistols and my bag of bullets and powder. These were carried away to the Emperor's stores.

There was, however, one pocket that escaped the search of the two officers. This pocket contained my spectacles and a small spy-glass. I feared they might be lost or spoiled if I gave them away.

QUESTIONS

1. Why was Gulliver searched ? Who searched him ?
2. What did the officers find in Gulliver's two coat pockets ?

3. What did they see in the two waistcoat pockets ?
4. What did they find in the two large pockets ?
5. What did Gulliver have in his two "fobs" ? What was the "engine" that he kept in his right fob ? What was the "net" in his left fob ? What did it contain ?
6. What was hanging on the "belt" that Gulliver wore ? What did the bag on the right side of the "belt" contain ?
7. What did the Emperor ask Gulliver to do when the list was read out to him ?
8. What was the first thing that Gulliver was asked to give away ? What was Gulliver asked to do before he placed it on the ground ?
9. What was the next thing that Gulliver was asked to give away ? What did Gulliver do at the Emperor's request ?
10. What effect had this on the people and the Emperor ?
11. How was Gulliver's watch taken to the Emperor ? What did the Emperor do when it was taken to him ?
12. What were the other things that Gulliver had to give away ?
13. What were the things that were not returned to him ?
14. Which pocket of Gulliver escaped the search ? What did it contain ?

CHAPTER VII

AMUSEMENTS AT THE CAPITAL

My gentleness and good behaviour won for me the favour of the Emperor. So I had hopes of gaining my freedom in a short time. The people too became less afraid of me. Sometimes I would lie down and let five or six of them dance on my hand. The boys and girls took to playing hide-and-seek in my hair.

The people of Lilliput had their own amusements like any other nation. They were very clever at the tricks they played. In fact their amusements were much more entertaining than any that I had seen before.

Of these nothing was more interesting than rope-dancing. In this they were at their best. The dancers showed their feats upon a slender white thread. It was two feet long, and was held twelve inches from the ground.

This rope-dancing was usually practised only by persons who wished to get high

offices in the State. They were trained in this art from their youth. They were not always men of noble birth and high education.

When a great office fell vacant, five or six men who wished to get it offered to dance on the rope. This was done before the Emperor and his court. He who jumped the highest, without falling, got the job.

Very often the chief ministers themselves were commanded by the Emperor to show their skill. Flimnap, the treasurer, was the best dancer. He could jump an inch higher than all the rest. The next best was Reldresal, chief secretary for private affairs. The rest of the high officers too were good rope-dancers.

These tests sometimes resulted in serious accidents. I myself had seen two or three of the dancers break their limbs. In fact there was hardly any minister who had not had a bad fall. Flimnap himself once had a serious fall. He very nearly broke his leg, but fortunately he fell on the Emperor's cushion and escaped unhurt.

There was another game that was held at the court on special occasions. The Emperor first placed on the table three fine silk ribbons—blue, red and green. These were to be given away as prizes to those who won in the competition.

The Emperor then held out a stick. Sometimes he raised it and sometimes he lowered it. Those who took part in the competition showed their skill by leaping over it or creeping under it. Whoever was most skilful in doing this was given the blue ribbon. The red was given to the next, and the green to the third. They wore these ribbons round their waists. Most of the high officers of the state had such ribbons round their waists.

The horses of the army were daily led before me. They were no longer shy. They would often come up to my feet without starting. The riders used to leap over my hand as I held it on the ground. One of the Emperor's huntsmen leapt over my foot, shoe and all. This was indeed a bold jump.

One day I was able to entertain the Emperor in a strange manner. With his permission, I got the woodmen to bring me a supply of some sticks. Each of them was two feet long, and as thick as a walking-stick. I got them firmly fixed on the ground to form a square. Over this I spread my handkerchief. I stretched it and tied it to the sticks. It was drawn as tight as the top of a drum.

I then asked the Emperor to let twenty-four of his best riders come and ride upon it. The Emperor readily allowed this, and I took up twenty-four horses with their riders, and placed them on the handkerchief.

As soon as the horsemen got into order, they divided themselves into two parties. These parties began a series of mock fights. They shot their arrows, drew their swords and pretended to fight a battle.

The Emperor was delighted with this entertainment, and by his orders it was repeated for several days.

It was by good fortune that there was no serious accident at any of these entertainments. Only once one of the horses happened to strike a hole in the handkerchief. The horse and its rider fell down, but immediately I helped them out and set them down on the ground. The horse received a sprain, but the rider escaped unhurt. I repaired my handkerchief, but I did not repeat this entertainment any more.

A few days later, some messengers came and informed the Emperor that a great black object had been seen on the shore. At first the people had taken it for a living creature, but on closer view they found that it was lifeless. Some of them had walked round it and climbed on it. It was flat on the top and hollow inside. They thought that perhaps it was something that belonged to me. They said that if the Emperor permitted they would bring it, drawn by horses. I at once knew that it was my hat. I begged the Emperor to give orders to bring it to me. Accordingly the Emperor gave orders and my hat was brought to me, drawn by five horses.

Two days after this, the Emperor ordered a parade of his army. He wanted me to

stand like a Colossus with my legs wide apart. Then he asked his general to march the army under me. So three thousand foot-soldiers and one thousand horsemen passed in close order under me, with drums beating and bands playing.

The Emperor and the Empress themselves were present on this occasion. They sat in their state coach at the saluting point, near my left leg.

QUESTIONS

1. How did Gulliver gain the favour of the Emperor and the people as days went on ?
2. According to Gulliver, what was the most interesting amusement in Lilliput ?
3. When a great office fell vacant, how was it filled ?
4. Who were the best rope-dancers in the country ? Show how rope-dancing often resulted in serious accidents.
5. When the horses of the army were brought before Gulliver, what did the riders do to amuse themselves ?
6. How did Gulliver make use of his handkerchief to entertain the Emperor and his court ? Why did he stop this entertainment ?
7. How did Gulliver get back his hat ?
8. Briefly describe the army parade that was held by the orders of the Emperor.

CHAPTER VIII

I REGAIN MY FREEDOM

As days went on, the Emperor grew more and more fond of me. I had begged of him several times that I might be set free. At last he placed the matter before his Council of Ministers for their consideration.

It was strongly opposed only by Skyresh Bolgolam, the high admiral. For some reason he had made himself my enemy. The Council, however, decided to set me free on certain conditions, and the Emperor approved of the decision. Bolgolam was asked to draw up the conditions on which I was to be given my freedom. These conditions were:—

1. "The Man-mountain" was not to leave the country without the Emperor's orders.
2. He was not to come inside the city without royal permission. On such occasions two hours' notice was to be given to the people to keep indoors.

3. He should walk only on the principal highroads, and not tread on meadows or corn-fields.

4. He was to take the utmost care not to tread on any person or any horse or carriage. Nor was he to take up any person in his hands without his consent.

5. He should lend his services to the state to carry urgent messages to distant places. On such occasions he should carry the messenger and his horse in his pocket and bring them back safely.

6. He should help the Emperor against his enemies in the island of Blefuscu, and do his best to destroy their fleet.

7. He should help workmen to move certain great stones which were needed to repair some of the public buildings.

8. He should in two months' time make an exact survey of the island by walking all round the coast and counting his footsteps.

On my promise to accept these conditions my chains were to be removed, and I was

to be set free and to have a daily allowance of food. Every day I was to be given food enough for the support of 1724 persons.

I promised to accept all these conditions, though I was not quite pleased with one or two of them. Immediately my chains were unlocked, and I was set free.

The Emperor himself was present on the occasion. To show my gratitude I fell at his feet. He asked me to rise, and said that he hoped I would be a very useful and devoted servant.

QUESTIONS

1. What did Gulliver beg of the Emperor several times? What did the Emperor do at last?
2. Who opposed the proposal to set Gulliver free? What was the decision of the Council?
3. Who was asked to draw up the conditions on which Gulliver was to be set free?
4. What were those conditions?
5. How did Gulliver regain his freedom?

CHAPTER IX

MY VISIT TO THE PALACE

After I had regained my freedom, the first request that I made was to be allowed to see the capital city. The Emperor readily agreed, but he warned me that I should be very careful and do no harm either to the houses or to any of the inhabitants.

Mildeno, the capital, was a thickly populated city. It had a wall running all round it. This wall was two and a half feet high. It was broad enough for a coach and pair to be driven on it.

The city was an exact square. The two main streets were five feet wide. They ran across each other and divided the city into four quarters. The lanes were very narrow. The houses were from three to five storeys high. The city had shops and markets in plenty. It had a population of about five hundred thousand souls.

On the day of my visit, I stepped over the great western gate. I passed gently along



I passed gently along the main streets.

the main streets. I wore only my waistcoat. I had taken off my coat for fear of damaging the roofs or chimneys of the houses with its tails. I walked along with the greatest care. There was no one in the streets as the people were asked to keep indoors during my visit. But I found the garrets and upper windows of the houses packed with men, women and children.

The Emperor's palace stood in the centre of the city. It was there that the two main streets met. The palace was a splendid building, surrounded by a wall two feet high.

I was not able to see the whole palace that day. The inner parts of the palace were shut off by the outer buildings which were five feet high. I did not step over those buildings as I feared that I might cause some damage.

The royal chambers were in the inner buildings. The Emperor had a great desire that I should see them, but I was able to do so only three days later.

I cut some big trees in the royal park, and made two stools with them. I put these stools close to the outer buildings. By stepping on these stools, I was able to get into the inner court and see the royal chambers inside. I bent down on my knees and had a look at them. They were the most splendid chambers that I had ever seen.

There I saw the Empress and the young Princes. The Empress came out of her chamber. She was greatly pleased with my visit. She smiled upon me and gave me her hand to kiss.



The Empress gave me her hand to kiss.

QUESTIONS

1. What was Gulliver's first request to the Emperor as soon as he regained his freedom? What did the Emperor do?
2. Give a brief description of the capital of Lilliput.
3. Briefly describe Gulliver's visit to the Emperor's palace. Why did he go to the palace a second time?
4. How was Gulliver received by the Empress?

CHAPTER X

WAR WITH BLEFUSCU

Some days later I had a visit from Reldresal, chief secretary for private affairs. He was attended only by one servant. He ordered his coach and pair to wait at a distance. Coming close to me, he desired to have a talk with me on an important matter. I agreed to this readily as he was one of my best friends in the court. I offered to lie down so that he could easily reach my ear. But he preferred to be held in my hand during the conversation.

Reldresal informed me that Lilliput was now facing two great dangers. At home there were two political parties. One party supported the Emperor, and the other was opposed to him. These parties were called *Slamecksan* and *Tramecksan*, from the low heels and high heels of the shoes that they always wore. The Emperor's supporters were *Slamecksan*. They always wore low-heeled shoes. The Emperor himself wore shoes with heels lower than any in his court.

Tramecksan wore high-heeled shoes and were opposed to the Emperor. There was a suspicion that the Crown Prince of the country was on the side of the rebels. It was found that at least one of his heels was higher than the other.

The two parties bitterly hated each other and the country was now facing a violent struggle between them. At the same time it was open to the danger of an invasion from outside.

To the north-east of Lilliput there was an island called Blefuscu. It was separated from Lilliput by a channel eight hundred yards wide.

The two empires of Lilliput and Blefuscu had been in a state of war for several years. The war began when the present Emperor's grandfather was a little boy.

One day the boy was going to eat an egg. He broke it with a knife at the bigger end, and in doing so, he happened to cut one of his fingers. Immediately the Emperor, his father, made a law ordering all his subjects to break eggs only at the smaller end.

Many people disliked this new law, and some of them strongly opposed it. Before long the whole country was plunged in a civil war on account of this law. In this war one Emperor lost his crown, and another his life.

The rebels came to be known as the Big-endians as they wanted to break eggs only at the big end. They were encouraged by the Emperor of Blefuscus. When they were put down, many of their leaders fled to Blefuscus for refuge. It was believed that eleven thousand men had to die in the civil war as they would not yield and break eggs at the smaller end.

During the civil war the Emperor of Blefuscus had helped the Big-endians and had warmly welcomed the exiles who crossed over to his country. Before long a bitter war had broken out between the two countries. This war had been going on for several years, and both sides had suffered great loss. Now the Blefuscans were preparing for an invasion, and for this purpose they were fitting out a mighty fleet.

Reldresal gave me a full account of this state of affairs. He said that he was

specially sent by the Emperor to ask for my help against the enemy. He also made me understand that the danger was great, and that without my help Lilliput had no chance of success.

I gave him a very patient hearing. I said that, as a foreigner, it was not right for me to take sides in a quarrel between the two parties inside Lilliput. But I promised that I was ready to defend the country against all invaders even at the risk of my life.

Reldresal thanked me and went away, quite satisfied with my promise of help.

QUESTIONS

1. Why did Reldresal visit Gulliver ?
2. What do you know of the two political parties in Lilliput ?
3. Which party supported the Emperor ?
4. To which party did the Crown Prince belong ?
5. Why were the empires of Lilliput and Blefuscus in a state of war ?
6. Who were the Big-endians ? How did they bring about a civil war in the country ?
7. How did the civil war lead to a war between Lilliput and Blefuscus ?
8. What, according to Reldresal, were the two great dangers that Lilliput faced ?
9. What was the request that Reldresal made to Gulliver ? What did Gulliver say in reply ?

CHAPTER XI

I CAPTURE THE BLEFUSCAN FLEET

The next day I informed the Emperor that I had a plan in my mind to save the country from the enemy.

The main fleet of Blefuscus lay at anchor in the harbour. They were kept ready to sail to Lilliput by the first fair wind. My plan was to seize all these ships and bring them over to Lilliput.

The Emperor was greatly pleased with my plan. He gave orders that everything that I required should be supplied immediately. I learnt from some old seamen that the channel was six feet deep in the middle and not more than four and a half feet elsewhere.

First I went to the north-east coast, opposite Blefuscus. I lay down behind a hill, and had a view of the fleet with my spy-glass. It consisted of fifty war-ships and some transport vessels.

When I came back to my house, I obtained a large quantity of strong cables and bars of iron. The cables that were brought to me were as thick as pack-thread, and the bars were of the size and length of knitting needles.

To make them stronger I twisted together three lengths of cable, and also three of the iron bars. I bent the ends of these bars into hooks and tied a twisted cable to each of them. I fastened fifty hooks to fifty cables, and went back with them to the north-east coast.

I took off my coat, shoes and stockings, but kept on my leather jacket. I then stepped into the channel and waded through the shallow water. When I got to the middle of the channel, I had to swim for about thirty yards. In a few minutes my feet touched ground again and I waded to the port of Blefuscu.

It took only half an hour for me to reach the fleet. The Blefuscans were frightened when they saw me. Those who were in the

ships jumped out and swam to the shore. I quietly took my cables and fastened a hook to the hole at the bow of each vessel. I then collected all the cables in my hands.

Meanwhile the enemy shot several thousand arrows at me. Many of them stuck in my hands and face. They not only gave me pain, but also delayed my work considerably.

My greatest fear was for my eyes. I would have lost them, if I had not put on my spectacles. They protected my eyes, and I went on with my work.

After I had fastened all the hooks, I tied the cables into a knot and began to pull. Not a ship would move, for they were all held by their anchors. So now I had to do the boldest part of my work. I dropped the knot and began cutting all the anchor cables. When this was done, I was able to pull the enemy's fleet after me.

The Blefuscans were struck with terror and astonishment. For some time they remained speechless. But when they saw me

pulling the ships after me, they raised a loud cry of alarm and despair.

When I had got out of danger, I stopped for a while, I picked out all the arrows that stuck to my hands and face. I had with me some of the ointment that was given to me on the day of my arrival. This I rubbed on my wounds. I took off my spectacles, and waited about an hour for the tide to fall. I then waded across the rest of the channel, pulling the ships behind me.

The Emperor and his court stood on the shore. They were anxiously awaiting my return. They saw the Blefuscian ships moving forward in a semi-circle. But they did not see me for some time. I was in water up to my neck while crossing the deepest part of the channel.

At first they thought that I was drowned. They feared that the enemy's ships were coming to invade the country. But soon their fears were at rest. When I was in shallow water again, they saw me. I held up the knotted end of the cables to show what I

had done. "Long live the Emperor of Lilliput!" I cried when I came within hearing distance.

There were shouts of joy when I arrived at the port. The Emperor received me very warmly at my landing and made me a *Nardac* on the spot. This was the highest title of honour that he could give.

My success over the Blefuscans, however, turned out to be the beginning of trouble for me. The Emperor now formed new plans. He wished to capture all the remaining ships of the enemy in the same way. It was his desire to crush the enemy completely and bring them under his rule. By doing so, he thought he could compel all people to break eggs at the smaller end. He would thus become the Emperor of the whole world.

I disagreed with this plan. The wisest of the Emperor's officers too were of my opinion. I said it was neither just nor wise to bring a free people like the Blefuscans into slavery.

This greatly annoyed the Emperor. He even forgot all that I had done for him and I soon became the object of his strong displeasure. Skyresh Bolgolam was already my bitter enemy, and he did all that he could to make the Emperor hate me.

Three weeks later messengers came from the Emperor of Blefuscu to beg for peace. There were six officers with several servants and attendants. These officers from Blefuscu had discussions with the Emperor and his Council, and a treaty was signed. This treaty was quite favourable to Lilliput, and the war between the two countries was brought to a close.

The Blefuscian visitors came to know that I had stood for them against the Emperor's desire to crush them completely. So, before they left Lilliput, they paid me a formal visit and invited me to their country in their Emperor's name. I thanked them for their courtesy and promised to visit their country as early as possible.

Accordingly the next time I saw the Emperor I asked his permission to visit Blefuscu.

This he granted me, but in a very cold manner. I knew later that Flimnap and Bolgolam had pointed to my friendship with the Blefuscian officers as a mark of disloyalty.

QUESTIONS

1. What was Gulliver's plan to save the country from the enemy ?
2. What preparations did Gulliver make to carry out his plan ?
3. Describe how Gulliver captured the fleet of Blefuscu.
4. How was Gulliver received by the Emperor on his arrival with the ships of the enemy ?
5. How did Gulliver's success turn out to be the beginning of troubles for him ?
6. How was peace made between Lilliput and Blefuscu ?
7. Why did the Blefuscian officers visit Gulliver ?

CHAPTER XII

MY LIFE IN LILLIPUT

I lived in Lilliput for nine months and thirteen days. My stay in the island was fairly comfortable. I had a house to live in, and in it I had a table and a chair of my own make. I had made them out of the largest trees in the royal park. I was also well provided with food and clothes.

To make shirts for my use two hundred tailors were employed. The tailors took my measurements as I lay on the ground. One of them stood at my neck and another at my knee. Each of them held tightly a strong cord by the end. A third measured the length of the cord with a rod. Then they measured my right thumb. This was enough. They calculated that twice round the thumb was equal to once round the wrist, and so on to the neck and waist. By such calculations they made accurate measurements.

Three hundred tailors were employed in the same manner to make clothes for me.

To calculate the length of my coat they had another method of taking measurements. I knelt down and they raised a ladder from the ground to my neck. One of them mounted upon this ladder. From my neck he let fall a plumb line to the floor. This gave them the length of my coat. My waist and arms I measured myself.

I had three hundred cooks to prepare my food. This was done in little huts near about my house. In these huts the cooks lived with their families and prepared my dishes.

When my food was ready to be served, I took up twenty waiters and placed them on the table. A hundred more remained below, some with dishes of meat and others with casks of wine. The waiters above drew up these dishes and casks by ropes and pulleys and placed them on the table.

Their mutton was not quite so good as ours, but their beef was excellent. I ate their geese and turkey at a mouthful. I must admit they were far better than ours. Of their smaller fowls, I could take up twenty

or thirty on the end of my knife. A cask of wine I could take at a gulp. I often ate my meal with hundreds of people looking on.

The Emperor had not seen me eat after I had made my table. So one day he sent a message that he and the royal family wished to be present while I dined. They arrived just before my dinner time. I at once lifted the Emperor and the royal family with their attendants on to my table. Flimnap also was present on the occasion.

The Emperor and the royal family sat in their chairs watching me with deep interest. They saw roasts of mutton and beef and flocks of geese, turkey and fowls disappear into my mouth, bone and all.

On this occasion I ate more than I usually did just to amuse and please the royal visitors. But this visit gave Flimnap a chance to prejudice the mind of the Emperor against me further. He pointed out to the Emperor how expensive my meals were. He told him that already I had cost the country over a

million and a half sprugs (the largest gold coin in Lilliput). So he advised the Emperor to get rid of me at the earliest opportunity.

QUESTIONS

1. How many tailors were employed to make shirts for Gulliver ? How did they take his measurements ?
2. How many tailors were employed to make him clothes ? What was their method to take his measurements to make a coat ?
3. How was food prepared for Gulliver ? How was dinner served to him ?
4. Describe the visit of the Emperor and the royal family to see Gulliver taking his dinner ?
5. How did Flimnap make use of this visit to prejudice the mind of the Emperor further against Gulliver ?

CHAPTER XIII

I AM CHARGED WITH TREASON

When my enemies saw that I was no longer in the Emperor's favour, they formed a secret plot against me. They did all in their power to increase the Emperor's ill-will and make him believe that I was a traitor.

One night one of the high officers of the state called on me. He came to my house very privately in a closed chair and wished to have a talk with me.

Immediately I sent away the bearers who carried the closed chair. I put the chair with the officer in it into my coat pocket. I then fastened the door of my house, placed the chair on my table and sat by it.

As the officer stepped out of the closed chair, I noticed that his face was full of concern. I asked him what the matter was. He said that he had come to speak to me on a very serious matter.

"You know, sir," said he, "Skyresh Bolgolain has been your enemy almost from the day of your arrival. He has been speaking ill of you at the court all these days. His enmity has considerably increased after your success against Blefuscus. He feels that your success has very much lessened his importance as the high admiral of the state.

"Now, along with some other officers, he has framed certain serious charges against you. They are charging you with high treason and are pressing the Emperor to put you to death.

"They base their charges on three main points. In the first place, you refused to help the Emperor to crush the Blefuscans completely. Secondly, you have been very friendly and courteous to the Blefuscian officers who had called on you. Lastly, you are getting ready to go over to Blefuscus, most probably with the object of helping its Emperor against Lilliput. For these reasons they think that you are guilty of high treason.

"For several days secret meetings of the Council had been held to discuss these charges.

Many of the officers were for putting you to death. But the Emperor did not agree with them. He thought that your life should be spared even though the charges against you were serious. But Bolgolam and Flimnap were bent upon punishing you with death. They said that this might be done by setting fire to your house and shooting poisoned arrows on your face and hands. They also said that poisonous juice should be poured over your shirt and bed-sheet. This, they thought, would make you tear your own flesh and die in great pain.

"For a long time these officers spoke against you, but the Emperor still wanted to spare your life. So he called upon Reldresal to give his opinion. Reldresal, as you know, is one of your best friends. He admitted that the charges against you were serious, but he thought that there was still room for mercy. He was of opinion that in consideration of the services you had done to Lilliput, your life might be spared. He was for giving you a lighter punishment. He said it would be enough if the Emperor gave orders to have both your eyes put out. He

pointed out that the loss of your eyes would not lessen your bodily strength. You could still be of some service to the Emperor for that reason. Besides, he thought, blindness would only make a person more courageous by hiding the danger from him. As for you, he said, it would be sufficient for you to see through the eyes of the ministers, for even great princes did no more.

"This proposal was strongly opposed by many officers. Bolgolam was in a fury. He wondered how Reldresal dared to make such a proposal. He insisted that you should be punished with death.

"Flimnap also was of the same opinion. He said that the cost of maintaining you had become unbearable. He added that by putting out your eyes the cost would only increase. He pointed out that some kind of fowls, when blinded, fed faster and grew fatter.

"The Emperor still remained firm. He was quite against the idea of putting you to

death. So he allowed Reldresal to speak again.

"Reldresal said that after blinding you, your food supplies might be reduced. By this means, he said, you would get weaker and weaker and die in a few months. He pointed out that in this case it would be easier to dispose of your dead body. He also suggested that when you died, your flesh might be removed from your bones. This could be taken away by cart loads and buried in distant places. Your skeleton, he said, might be preserved as a monument.

"At last everyone except Bolgolam agreed to this proposal, and the matter was settled. In three days' time Redresal will be asked to meet you. He will read out the charges against you, and tell you that the Emperor, out of mercy, wants only to have both your eyes put out. The Emperor has also very kindly arranged to have twenty surgeons to attend on you and perform this operation properly by shooting sharp-pointed arrows into your eyes.

"Now I leave it to you to decide what you should do. To avoid suspicion I must return immediately in as secret a manner as I came."

So saying, the officer took leave of me and quietly went away.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the enemies of Gulliver do when they saw that he was no longer in the Emperor's favour ?
2. How did Gulliver come to know that a secret plot had been formed against him ?
3. What were the charges that were brought against Gulliver ?

CHAPTER XIV

MY ESCAPE TO BLEFUSCU

When I was left alone, I turned over in my mind what the officer had secretly informed me. For some time I did not know what I should do, but at last I decided to leave Lilliput and go to Blefuscu.

The very next day I sent a letter to my friend Reldresal, informing him of my decision to go to Blefuscu. Having done that, I did not wait for a reply. I went to that side of the island where the fleet lay and seized a warship. I tied a cable to a hole in the forepart and pulled up the anchor. Then I stripped myself, put my clothes in the ship and set off for the royal port of Blefuscu, pulling the ship behind me.

When I arrived at the port, the people on the shore received me with shouts of joy. They lent me two guides to take me to the capital city. I held them in my hands till I came within two hundred yards of the city gate.

I sent my guides to inform the Emperor of my arrival. I had an answer in an hour that the Emperor and his court were coming to receive me.

When they came, they got down from their horses and gave me a very warm welcome. I lay down to kiss the Emperor's hand. I told him that I had come according to my promise, with the permission of the Emperor of Lilliput. I said nothing of the trouble I was in. The Emperor did all that he could to make my stay comfortable.

Three days after my arrival I took a walk to the north-east coast of the island. I looked out to the sea and saw something at a distance. It looked like an overturned boat. I pulled off my shoes and stockings and waded out to get a nearer view of the object. I saw clearly that it was a boat that must have floated away from some wreck.

I turned at once to the city and begged the Emperor to lend me twenty of his vessels and three thousand seamen. The Emperor was glad to help me, and at once gave orders.

I went back to the north-east coast by the shortest way, while the ships sailed round to meet me. I found that the tide had drawn the boat still nearer to the shore. When the ships came up, I stripped myself and waded till I came within a hundred yards of the boat. Then I was forced to swim till I could catch hold of it. The seamen threw to me the end of a cable. I fastened it to a hole in the forepart of the boat and attached the other end to a ship.

I now found my work far more difficult than I had thought at first. The only way in which I could move the boat was by swimming behind the boat and pushing it along with my hand. I managed very well in this way, and brought the boat to shallow water.

The hardest part of the work was over now. I then went back to the ships and brought out all the cables that were left. I tied them first to the boat and then to the nine ships. When the boat was firmly fastened to the ships, they all pulled it while I pushed from behind and brought it ashore.

With the help of two thousand men I turned it on its bottom. I was glad to find that it was very little damaged.

It took me ten days to make a rough set of paddles and then I rowed it to the royal port of Blefuscu.

A huge crowd of people awaited my arrival. They were full of wonder at the sight of so large a vessel. The Emperor himself came to have a look at it. He wanted to know all about it. I told him that it was a boat washed off from some wreck.

"My good fortune has thrown this boat in my way," I said to the Emperor. "It will carry me to some place from where I can get back to my country."

The Emperor very kindly said that he did not wish me to go away. He asked me to stay in his country as long as I pleased. However, when he saw that I really wanted to go home, he said, "I shall be very sorry to lose you, but I won't stand in your way and refuse your wish."

QUESTIONS

1. What did Gulliver decide to do when he came to know that he was to be punished for treason ?
2. Describe briefly how Gulliver left for Blefuscus and was warmly received on arrival.
3. Describe how Gulliver got possession of a boat washed off from a wreck. Why did he think that it was his good fortune that threw it in his way ?
4. What did the Emperor say when Gulliver expressed his wish to get back to his country ?

CHAPTER XV

MY DEPARTURE

All this time no message came either to me or to the Emperor of Blefuscu from Lilliput. The Emperor of Lilliput did not know that I had heard of his cruel plans. He believed that I had gone to Blefuscu only to keep my promise to visit that country. He thought that I would return in a few days. But when I was away for over a fortnight, he was troubled at my long absence.

The Emperor talked the matter over with his advisers and made up his mind to send a messenger to Blefuscu. The messenger was asked to tell the Emperor of Blefuscu that I had been found guilty of many charges and that I had fled from justice. He said that if I did not return to Lilliput in two hours, I should be deprived of my title of *Nardac* and declared a traitor. He also said that his royal master expected his brother of Blefuscu to give orders to have me sent back to Lilliput bound hand and foot.

The Emperor of Blefuscus considered the matter for three days before he gave an answer. At last he told the messenger from Lilliput that it was impossible for him to send me bound hand and foot. He, however, informed him that I would soon get away as I had found a huge boat that would carry me on the sea. This boat, he said, was being fitted out for my voyage. So it was his hope that in a few days both the countries would be rid of me.

With this answer the messenger returned to Lilliput. After he had left Blefuscus, the Emperor told me what had happened. He promised me that if I cared to stay, he would give me all possible help and protect me from my enemies.

I thanked the Emperor for his kindness with all my heart, but told him that it would be much better for me to leave Blefuscus. I said that as fortune had thrown a vessel in my way, I should not lose my chance of returning to my country. Besides, I said, I did not want to be the cause of ill-will or misunderstanding between two mighty Emperors.

The Emperor was not at all displeased with what I said. On the other hand, he seemed to be very glad that I was going away.

I now made preparations for leaving Blefuscu as early as possible, and the court of Blefuscu gave me all the help that I needed.

Five hundred workmen were employed to make sails for my boat under my direction. This was done by sewing together thirteen thicknesses of cloth. For ropes and cables I twisted together twenty of the strongest of theirs. A great stone served me for an anchor. The Emperor's carpenters helped me to cut down some of the largest trees to make oars and a mast.

In about a month, when everything was ready, I went to take leave of the Emperor. He and the royal family came out to meet me. I lay down on my face to kiss the hands of the Emperor, the Empress and the Princes, which they very graciously gave me.

The Emperor presented me with fifty purses of two hundred *sprugs* each, together with

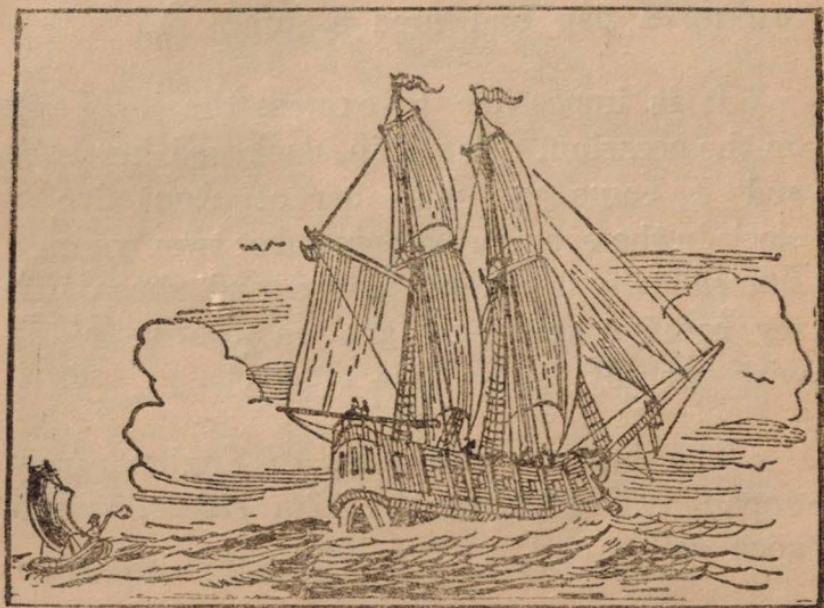
his picture at full length. I put this picture into one of my gloves to keep it safe.

I had already stored the boat with a large quantity of bread, beef, mutton and drink. I had also taken with me six cows and two bulls alive and an equal number of ewes and rams. To feed them on board I had taken a good bundle of hay and a bag of corn. I would have gladly taken a dozen of the natives too, but the Emperor would by no means allow that.

I set sail on 24th September, 1701, at six in the morning. Feasts had been held all the day before. Flags were flying from every tower, and thousands of people stood on the shore watching me. It was to them a wonderful sight. They watched until they could see my boat no longer.

All day from six o'clock in the morning I sailed northward. In the evening I saw a small island which seemed to be uninhabited. There I cast anchor, took some refreshments and went to sleep.

It was a clear night and I slept soundly. I awoke just at daybreak and finished my breakfast before the sun was up. In the first light I lifted my anchor and steered the same course as I had done on the day before. The wind was favourable. I hoped that I



In half an hour the ship saw me.

would soon find land, but all that day I could see nothing but the vacant sea.

Terrible fears came upon me. The sun beat upon my head, and I felt sick and sad.

Another night passed — a long and weary night.

On the third day I saw at a distance a sail steering to the south-east. I hailed her, but could get no answer. I soon gained upon her, and in half-an-hour she saw me. She ran up a flag and fired a gun.

It is impossible to express the joy I felt on the occasion. The ship slackened her sails and I came up with her at about five o'clock in the evening on September twenty-sixth. Immediately I put my cattle and sheep into my coat pockets and got on board, taking with me my little store of food.

The ship was returning to England from Japan. The captain, Mr. John Biddle, was a good sailor and a very kind man.

This gentleman treated me very kindly. I told him my story in a few words. The captain thought that I was mad and that the dangers I had been through had upset my brains. But when I took the cattle and sheep out of my pockets and showed the gold coins given by the Emperor of Blefuscus

and his picture, he was astonished. I gave him two purses of two hundred *sprugs* each. I also promised that when we arrived in England, I would make him a present of a cow and a sheep.



I took the cattle and sheep out of my pockets.

I shall not trouble the reader with an account of my voyage back to England. It was very pleasant and prosperous for the most part.

We arrived in the Downs on 13th April, 1702. I had only one misfortune: the rats

on board the ship carried off one of my sheep. The rest of my cattle I got safe ashore. In a short time I made a lot of money by showing them to the people, and before I began my second voyage, I sold them for six hundred pounds.

QUESTIONS

1. What did the Emperor of Lilliput do when he was troubled at my long absence?
2. What did the messenger from Lilliput tell the Emperor of Blefuscu?
3. What was the answer given by the Emperor of Blefuscu?
4. What preparations did Gulliver make for his departure?
5. Briefly describe Gulliver's departure from Blefuscu.
6. Briefly describe Gulliver's return to England.

